

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/773,397

Examiner

Alan A. Mathews

Applicant(s)

HANSEN, STEVEN GEORGE

Art Unit

2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed 9-1-05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-59.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's ~~Amendment~~ Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



Alan A. Mathews
Primary Examiner

EXAMINER'S COMMENT

1. The terminal disclaimer filed September 1, 2005, had been approved and has been entered.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance

The prior art does not disclose or suggest selecting a grid of source points in a pupil plane of the illuminator; calculating separate responses for individual source points, each of the responses representing a result of a single or series of simulations using the simulation model; and adjusting an illumination arrangement of the illuminator based on analysis of accumulated results of the separate calculations in combination with all the other steps recited in independent claim 1.

The prior art does not disclose or suggest a processor to define a lithographic pattern to be printed on the substrate, select a grid of source points in a pupil plane of the illumination system, calculate separate responses for individual source points, each of the responses representing a result of a single or series of simulations using a simulation model, and calculate an optimized illumination arrangement based on analysis of the accumulated results of the separate calculations, and a selectably variable beam controller

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that is adapted to modify a cross-sectional intensity distribution in the projection beam exiting the illumination system in accordance with the optimized illumination arrangement calculated by the processor in combination with all the other elements recited in independent claim 53.

The prior art does not disclose or suggest a machine readable medium encoded with machine executable instructions including selecting a grid of source points in a pupil plane of the illuminator; calculating separate responses for individual source points, each of the responses representing result of a single or series of simulations using the simulation model; and adjusting the illumination arrangement based on analysis of accumulated results of the separate calculations in combination with all the other instructions recited in independent claim 55.

The prior art does not disclose or suggest selecting a grid of source points in a pupil plane of an illuminator; calculating separate responses for individual source points, each of the responses representing a result of a single or series of simulations using the simulation model; and adjusting an illumination arrangement of the illuminator based on analysis of accumulated results of the separate calculations in combination with all the other steps recited in independent claim 56.

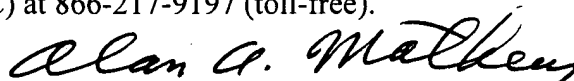
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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan A. Mathews whose telephone number is (571) 272-2123. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alan A. Mathews
Primary Examiner
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